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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE 22. XL. 71
TO: Mr. Maury, one		
ROOM NO. 7D-43	BUILDING Hqs	
REMARKS: Copy for your information. Drug File		
STATINTL		
FROM: [REDACTED]		
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

11/17/71

STATINTL

TO: 

I thought you might be interested in the attached Memcon relating to the narcotics situation in Southeast Asia, which should probably be called to the attention of your substantive people.

Your attention is especially directed to the second paragraph on page 2.


Henry B. Cox

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 11, 1971

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Participants: Herbert A. Allen, Private Consultant to
Senator Lloyd Bentsen (D-Texas).

W. Frederick Weiss, Office of Congressional
Relations.

Subject: Narcotics

Mr. Allen has just returned from an investigation of the narcotics situation in Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand. He went to Southeast Asia at his own expense and at the request of Senator Lloyd Bentsen (D-Texas), member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Allen was highly complimentary of the small but effective Air Force Drug Treatment Program operated by Captain Kelly O'Rourke. He stated that Captain O'Rourke was the most outstanding officer he had ever met in the drug treatment field. He also complimented General Adamson and his efforts with the Pioneer House for the U.S. Army.

He claimed that the 5% figures issued by the Pentagon on heroin addiction were low but that newspaper reports of 30% to 50% of Armed Services personnel being "junkies" were too high. He stated that a figure of 10% to 15% was probably more accurate. He also said that the "intensity of addiction" is less in Vietnam because military personnel generally can be withdrawn from heroin in three to five days.

In his contacts with Embassy personnel, he said he was treated correctly and given frank briefings. These briefings were neither better nor worse than expected. He

-2-

related his experience at the Embassy in Vientiane. Immediately after the Ambassador had briefed him on the importance of the Laotian legislative action in the narcotics field and the steadfastness of the government in controlling the opium and heroin supply, he walked to a shop with another Embassy employee and purchased a "sack of heroin" for twenty cents.

He said that Military, State, BNDD, and CIA officials know the primary dealers and the supply routes. but are unable and/or unwilling to exert pressure on the Laotian and Vietnamese governments to have any impact on the traffic. As a footnote, he stated that press speculation on CIA activity in trafficking was pure fabrication; however, he did not doubt that certain CIA contract pilots "do carry drugs" to increase their monthly salaries.

Mr. Allen became interested in the narcotics field as a result of his interest in providing employment opportunities for Vietnam veterans in insurance companies and brokerage firms on Wall Street. He found opposition to accepting veterans by bonding companies because of the myth that all Vietnam veterans are junkies.